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International Conference on Case Histories in
Geotechnical Engineering

(2013) - Seventh International Conference on
Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering

29 Apr 2013 - 04 May 2013

Dedication

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Recommended Citation

Prakash, Shamsher, "Dedication" (2013). *International Conference on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering*. 2.

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DEDICATION



Ralph B. Peck
Professor Emeritus of
Foundation Engineering
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

1912-2008

Professor Ralph B. Peck, Professor Emeritus of Foundation Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, died of congestive heart failure on February 18, 2008, at his home in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Ralph was born in Winnipeg, Canada, to his American parents, Orwin K. and Ethel Huyck Peck on June 23, 1912. He married Marjorie E. Truby on June 14, 1937. He and Marjorie have a daughter, Nancy Peck Young, and son and daughter-in-law, James (Laurie) Peck, and grandchildren, Michael Young and Maia Peck.

Perhaps more than any other individual, Dr. Ralph B. Peck has served as a guide and leader in the maturing of geotechnical engineering as it has grown in the past 50 years. He has led by example, by the logic of his arguments, clearly transmitting his judgment to student and practitioner alike. He has spoken and written consistently and eloquently on the application of art and science to the practice of subsurface engineering. Throughout his career he has been firmly committed to engineering education and engineering practice, applying them liberally in both the classroom and on the job site.

Ralph B. Peck was a longtime supporter of our Case Histories Conferences and presented keynote lectures to the First (1984), Second (1988), Third (1993), Fourth (1998) and Fifth (2004) Conferences. He had presented special lectures to many conferences on Soil Dynamics also.

I joined UIUC for my graduate work in the fall of 1959. My dream was to work with Prof. Peck, and I was happy that he accepted me, without question.

He was a human being of Godly qualities and a wonderful instructor. I adopted his admonition in one of his classes, as my guiding principle: "ONE YEAR'S EXPERIENCE REPEATED OVER THIRTY YEARS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE THIRTY YEARS' EXPERIENCE."

I like to describe Ralph as:
"SOIL MECHANICS AND ITS LAWS LAY HID IN NIGHT,
GOD SAID, 'LET RALPH BE', AND THERE WAS LIGHT."

It is our sincere desire and honor to dedicate this conference to the legacy of Ralph B. Peck.

Shamsher Prakash